

September 29, 2009

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri (NY-24) announced that the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees (MVRRCR) received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) worth \$258,544 to offer language-specific educational services to fight domestic violence and a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) worth \$79,226 to work with the Burmese/Karen community in the Mohawk Valley to develop leadership, organizational skills, programs and services within the community.

"Preventing and stopping domestic violence and teaching the skills necessary to get ahead in our community are important to the growth and development of healthy families and children from across the Mohawk Valley," **Arcuri said**, "I am glad that the MVRRCR will be using this funding to provide these critical education programs."

MVRRCR will use the DOJ grant to work with state and local governments and social service agencies to develop and enhance effective strategies to provide culturally and linguistically specific services to victims while increasing the community's capacity to provide culturally and linguistically specific resources and support for victims and their families. The grant will also strengthen criminal justice interventions by providing training for law enforcement, prosecution and courts on culturally and linguistically specific responses and culturally specific training to work with children of all backgrounds.

This grant is part of the DOJ's Grants to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services Program and was created by the Violence Against Women and the Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). The purpose of this program is to create unique opportunities for targeted community-based organizations to address the critical needs of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victims in a manner that affirms a victim's culture and effectively addresses language and communication barriers.

MVRRCR will be using the funding from HHS to work with members of the Burmese/Karen community in order to teach the skills they need to succeed in their business and educational pursuits in the Mohawk Valley.

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